CD244:42-3/ This is one of Regis Kennedy's better expositions on how not to be a G-man and how not to find your man. I believe I have seen this before, probably that you sent it to me, or under a different CD, for I have no card on it.

If there was this tentative identification of a man possibly Clay Bertrand, FNU Burton (entirely undescribed, as to size, age, race, appearance, apparent financial and social position, whether or not gay, etc.), where is the subsequent investigation to locate "Burton"? Can it be assumed that in understanding the anem of this man to be Burton, Turnbach (unknown to me) did not misunderstand Bertrand (as, Bertrun, one possible slurring)? Kennedy did not dare omit Lafitte's. Nor does he indicate why he went to see Turnbach. Someone told the FBI of what he had said, clearly, but where is that report, and who was it (worth following, if possible)? Anyone known as Clay Bertrand and gay or gay-connected would certainly have been known in either Lafotte's, among other places.

If I didn't tell you the story, this place was owned by the father of Lone Caplinger. She was close to Thornley, acted as his p.r. rep when he was back in N.O. from Tampa the time he was charged. She also used to work in Garrison's office. Her father had had Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop (repeated reports of heavy Shaw patronage). When the building was sold he is supposed to have gotten a friend to bid it in for him. The friend is supposed to have bought it for himself. Caplinger then opened Lafitte's in Exile. Ivan Cottman, brother of Shaw's collaborator, told me he had seen Shaw peek in Lafitte's B.S then run or hasten away, as I now recall more than once.

Interesting, isn't it, that Kennedy never asked if Turnbach knew Shaw? Or Thornley. And why should "a question" be "raised as to whether OSWALD was a homosexual"? Because there was no reason to believe it, no report of it or his connection with homosexuals? Why should the name Clay Bertrand have been raised in the same conversation with this stranger? Was the Andrews story then known? I do not believe so. Not by 12/1/63. What better reasons could Kennedy have had for not getting even the most indefinite description of this so well informed "stranger"? Or for his not asking Turnbach to phone him the minute he saw "Burton(phonetic) again? Or for not asking the names of customers who might known "Burton"?

This report tends to solidify Andrews' story. It certainly does not give substance to his later variant, that Gene Davis is Bertrand, for Turnbach would have known Davis, prominent in both gay and barkeep circles.

And what better way to be checking Shaw out, the most obvious candidate for Bertrand being Shaw, as Kelley confirms, than not showing his picture?

(And can you imagine what could have been done to Kennedy during the Shaw trials if this and the earlier reports I found had been competently used, whether or not he ever answered the questions? How it would have exposed the character of the FBI "investigation"!)

There should be reports like this for every one of the many gay bars in the French Quarter. I say "like this" only because we cannot expect better. Above all, there should have been one covering Lafitte's B.S. and Mom's "Society Page", the latter because it was close to 126 Exchnage Place, where LHO lived as a boy, and because she lived in the apartment next to his. It was then and still is, since being moved , one of the more popular gay bars. I have given you a report of my interview with her. Pena should have been interviewed about this, because two of his non-gay bars were used by prominent gays to pick up one-night-stands from among the seamen whose boats docked at N.O. He wasn't. And there is reason to believe Shaw patronized the Habana back in those days (not since WR).